

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00379 230133Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03  
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3042

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - USER CHARGES

REF: A) MEXICO 10288, B) STATE 129042, C) STATE 13511

1. EMB TCO, FOLLOWING-UP ON LETTER (PARA 3, REFTEL A), CALLED ON LIC. ENRIQUE M. LOAEZA TOVAR, DG, AEROPUERTOS Y SERVICIOS AUXILIARES (ASA) JUNE 21, 1977 TO REITERATE USG CONCERN OVER THE INTERNATIONAL LANDING FEE INCREASE/ QUOTATION THEREOF IN DOLLARS AND TO REQUEST DATA SUBSTANTIATING THE NEWLY AUTHORIZED TARIFF. LOAEZA IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION REPEATED THE SAME ARGUMENTS AS MUREDDU (PARA 2, REFTEL A) AND MAINTAINED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES WILL PAY NO MORE IN DOLLARS THAN THEY WERE PAYING PRIOR TO THE DEVALUATION UNDER THE NEW TARIFF. HE HELD THAT THE NEW TARIFF WAS JUST AND REASONABLE FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND EMPHASIZED THAT ASA WAS NOT ABOUT TO SUBSIDIZE THE FOREIGN CARRIERS BY PROVIDING LOW LANDING FEES.

2. ASKED WHETHER THE FOREIGN CARRIERS WOULD NOT IN FACT BE PAYING MORE PROPORTIONATELY FOR AIRPORT SERVICES THAN DOMESTIC FLIGHTS, HE RESPONDED WITH AN EMPHATIC NO.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 00379 230133Z

CITING THE UK (?), HE ARGUED THAT A DUAL TARIFF WITH LOWER LANDING FEES FOR DOMESTIC AND HIGHER ONES FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WAS A COMMON AND ACCEPTABLE PRACTICE WORLDWIDE. HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE FACT THAT INDIVIDUAL U.S. AIRPORTS DO NOT DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO LANDING FEES TO BE GERMANE.

3. OF INTEREST, LOAEZA THEN INQUIRED WHETHER THE TCO'S VISIT WAS CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE RECENT USG USER CHARGES MISSION TRIP TO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (SEE REFTEL C). TCO RESPONDED, NOT DIRECTLY, BUT THAT QUESTIONS OF UNREASONABLE OR DISCRIMINATORY USER CHARGES WERE OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO THE USG, U.S. EMBASSIES ROUTINELY MONITORED AND REPORTED ON THESE MATTERS AND RECENT GOM LANDING FEE INCREASE HAD PROMPTED TCO'S VISIT.

4. CONCLUDING THE DISCUSSION, LOAEZA STATED HE WAS AWARE THAT MUREDDU, DG OF TARIFFS, TERMINALS AND RELATED SERVICES WAS PREPARING COST DATA FOR THE EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT TO DOT (PARA 1, REFTEL A) AND OFFERED TO SUPPLY ADDITIONAL DATA IF NECESSARY. HE THEN ADDED HE HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH AN UNNAMED PERSON IN THE EVENING, AND A WAY MIGHT BE FOUND TO RESOLVE THE LANDING FEE IMPASSE BETWEEN ASA AND THE FOREIGN AIRLINES SERVING MEXICO. EMBASSY HAS SINCE LEARNED THAT ASA'S CHIEF LEGAL COUNSEL, ERNESTO MIRANDA, HAS MADE JUNE 22, 1977 APPOINTMENT WITH LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF A U.S. AIRLINE, PRESUMABLY TO DISCUSS LANDING FEE PROBLEM. MIRANDA, AT RECENT COCKTAIL PARTY, TOLD ANOTHER U.S. AIRLINE REP THAT "THE NICE THING ABOUT WAR IS THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ARMISTICE".

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE LOAEZA AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 00379 230133Z

ASA ARE FISHING FOR A FACE-SAVING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM BEFORE THE FINAL COURT DECISION EXPECTED JULY 8, 1977. THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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